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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1910

THE PROBLEM OF THE ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR

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PART I

THERE has been for some years a growing appreciation among educational institutions of the fact that their problems are not entirely individual, but present many aspects in common, and that much good may come from joint effort toward their solution. The very existence of this association sufficiently demonstrates this fact, and also amply justifies the aim of this paper. The topic offers material for a volume; the limitations of space and time for preparation have made the task of presentation chiefly one of selection and manner. The prime effort has been directed toward stating the problem of the assistant professor in concrete terms, and the method adopted may be likened to that of composite photography. Its limitations are obvious, but it has the advantage of focusing well on the main features, while enabling one to treat individual data without danger of personal identification.

A questionnaire (Appendix A) was prepared and sent out to approximately 250 of the men holding the rank of assistant professor in the 22 institutions represented in this association. When replies had been received to about one half (120) of these, the writer felt forced to begin his work of compilation, in order that in the time at his disposal he might complete the collation, and have a definite result to present in this paper. Replies have continued, but they run just about the same as those here considered, and in no manner call for any essential modification of the general re-